

<p align="center">Notice of Allowability</p>	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	09/837,642	HOFFMAN, ROGER P.	
	Examiner Wilbert L. Starks, Jr.	Art Unit 2121	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to the filing of 04/18/2001.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-9.
3. ☐ The drawings filed on _____ are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 5. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 6. <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____. |
| 3. <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____ | 7. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment |
| 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material | 8. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance |
| | 9. <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____. |

DETAILED ACTION

Reasons For Allowance

1. Claims 1-9 are allowed.
2. The following is an Examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

The cited prior art taken alone or in combination fails to teach the claimed invention of analyzing responses to requests for quotations, as claimed by Applicant. Specifically, independent claims 1 and 8 disclose the conversion of the quotes into ordered blocks of character strings that contain the context of the quote.

The closest prior art of Giovannoli¹ teaches a computerized quotation system and method but fails to teach or suggest the conversion of the quotes into ordered blocks of character strings that contain the context of the quote. To the extent that this feature is not present in the prior art cited by Examiner, the present case is found to be allowable over the art of record.

Any comments considered necessary by Applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

¹ Giovannoli (U.S. Patent Number 5,758,328 A; dated 26 May 1998; class 705; subclass 026).

Conclusion

1. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to Applicant's disclosure.
 - A. Radjy et al. (U.S. Patent Number 6,687,559 B2; dated 03 FEB 2004; class 700; subclass 106) discloses an apparatus and method for a vertically integrated construction business.
 - B. Mikurak (U.S. Patent Number 6,671,818 B1; dated 30 DEC 2003; class 714; subclass 004) discloses problem isolation through translating and filtering events into a standard object format in a network based supply chain.
 - C. Giovannoli (U.S. Patent Number 5,842,178 A; dated 24 NOV 1998; class 705; subclass 026) discloses a computerized quotation system and method.
 - D. Giovannoli (U.S. Patent Number 5,758,328 A; dated 26 May 1998; class 705; subclass 026) discloses a computerized quotation system and method.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the Examiner should be directed to Wilbert L. Starks, Jr. whose telephone number is (571) 272-3691.

Alternatively, inquiries may be directed to the following:

S. P. E. Anthony Knight	(571) 272-3687
After-final (FAX)	(703) 746-7238
Official (FAX)	(703) 746-7239
Non-Official/Draft (FAX)	(703) 746-7240

WLS

20 February 2005



Wilbert L. Starks, Jr.
Primary Examiner
Art Unit - 2121